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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for stabilizing adjacent vertebrae. Upper and lower interlocking brackets are insertable in a prepared intervertebral space between adjacent vertebrae. The brackets are affixed to the vertebrae at attachment plates. A rib on one side of one bracket interlocks with a rib receiving groove in the other bracket to stabilize the spinal column without eliminated mobility (forward and rearward flexion) of the column. Various embodiments include additional shock absorption features.